



**2019 ICC Group B
ICC OGCV Voting Guide
November 18 – December 5, 2019**



This guide highlights the positions that affect fire sprinkler systems and fire safety in the proposed 2021 editions of the IEBC and IRC. These positions are on the Cycle B Online Governmental Consensus Vote (OGCV) agenda from November 18th to December 5th. To vote, go the www.cdpACCESS.com website.

ICC OGCV Voting

The Online Governmental Consensus Vote (OGCV) is an important part of the ICC code development process. It is the last step in developing the 2021 IEBC, IRC, and Energy codes. This step ratifies the 2021 editions. Your vote is critical! From November 18 – December 5, 2019, validated ICC governmental member representatives (code officials) may vote during this period on ICC's cdpACCESS website. NFSA strongly encourages voting the entire OGCV agenda. Below is a summary of the NFSA positions and the following pages have a fuller explanation of the proposed change with descriptions and positions specific to the concerns of the fire sprinkler industry.

Summary of NFSA Positions

ADMIN

ADM5 Part II Support AMPC1

IEBC

EB39 Support Disapproval
EB61 Support Disapproval
EB82 Support Disapproval
EB103 Support Disapproval

IRC

RB22 Support Disapproval
RB60 Support As Submitted
RB67 Support AMPC1
RB152 Support AMPC 3, 5

Proposal #	PCH Action	NFSA Position	Proposal/Comment Description	Reason for NFSA Position
ADMINISTRATIVE				
ADM5 Part II	AMPC 1	SUPPORT AMPC 1	<p>This proposal provides clarification in the definition of townhouse and adds a definition for townhouse unit. Also, it correlates these changes throughout the rest of IRC.</p>	<p>The IRC currently contains the terms “townhouse” and “townhouse unit, but only “townhouse” is defined. The new definition will clarify the term “townhouse” as applying to structures that contain three or more dwelling units and “townhouse unit” as applying to a single-family dwelling unit in a “townhouse.” This is consistent with how the IRC uses the term “dwelling” to reference a building with one or two dwelling units. This proposal provides consistency throughout the IRC.</p>



Proposal #	PCH Action	NFSA Position	Proposal/Comment Description	Reason for NFSA Position
INTERNATIONAL EXISTING BUILDING CODE (IEBC)				
EB39	DISAPPROVED	SUPPORT DISAPPROVAL	This proposal creates a section in Chapter 3 for special requirements for healthcare facilities with specific references to the IFC.	ADM8-19 added text to IEBC Chapter 1.: "101.2.1 Application of fire code. Where work regulated by this code is also regulated by the construction requirements for existing buildings in Chapter 11 of the International Fire Code, such work shall comply with applicable requirements in both codes." This text provides a broad reference to IFC Chapter 11. Individual pointed references throughout the IEBC are unnecessary and could create situations where only those specific references are enforced and exclude the remaining of Chapter 11.
EB61	DISAPPROVED	SUPPORT DISAPPROVAL	This proposal creates additional specific references, in the body of the IEBC, to IFC Chapter 11 as they relate to healthcare facilities.	ADM8-19 added text to IEBC Chapter 1. This text provides a broad reference to IFC Chapter 11. Individual pointed references throughout the IEBC are unnecessary and could create situations where only those specific references are enforced and exclude the remaining of Chapter 11.



Proposal #	PCH Action	NFSA Position	Proposal/Comment Description	Reason for NFSA Position
INTERNATIONAL EXISTING BUILDING CODE				
EB82	DISAPPROVED	SUPPORT DISAPPROVAL	This proposal attempts to provide clarification in an exception for work areas that do not have enough municipal water supply for design of a fire sprinkler system.	This proposal provides concern that the terminology “service piping” and “vertical piping” is not consistent with NFPA 13. Without further clarification this makes the proposal confusing and more likely fewer fire sprinkler installations for Level 2 Alterations.
EB103	DISAPPROVED	SUPPORT DISAPPROVAL	This proposal creates a new section which provides an approach to remove a non-required system based upon a series of criteria.	<p>The proposed 1011.2.1.1.1 only requires an evaluation report or an investigation to remove the non-required sprinkler system if sprinklers are not required for new construction and if the public portions of the systems are removed. It does not contemplate many buildings are sprinklered because of fire flow, setback, grade, appeals, wildland urban interface, etc. and are done without being specific to the occupancy of the building.</p> <p>Removing the sprinkler system solely on a change to another occupancy could negate any agreements between the owner and another enforcing agency of the jurisdiction, i.e. fire department, water department, etc.</p>

Proposal #	PCH Action	NFSA Position	Proposal/Comment Description	Reason for NFSA Position
INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE				
RB22	DISAPPROVED	SUPPORT DISAPPROVAL	This proposal attempts to change the definition of a townhouse where the required sides must be at least 50% of the length of each of these two sides.	The proposal attempts to put regulation into the definition of the word. The proposal needs further development.
RB60	AS SUBMITTED	SUPPORT AS SUBMITTED	This proposal provides an additional exception for structural independence requirements of townhouses in the IRC. If townhouses are protected by a fire sprinkler system complying with Section P2904 or NFPA 13D.	This is a needed clarification to the IRC that encourages the use of fire sprinkler systems in townhouses in jurisdictions where fire sprinklers systems are not required.
RB152	AMPC 3, 5	SUPPORT AMPC 3, 5	This proposal requires that habitable attics to be considered a story above grade plane with exceptions provided by public comments 3 and 5.	The current allowance for a “habitable attic” in the IRC creates an inconsistency within the I-Codes because it allows a 4 th story to be added to IRC buildings without requiring fire sprinklers throughout, as would be required by 4-story residential buildings under the IBC. Supporting AMPC 3, 5 will continue to allow habitable attics under the IRC, but only when a fire sprinkler system is provided throughout the dwelling and subject to limits on the area of the habitable attic.

Proposal #	PCH Action	NFSA Position	Proposal/Comment Description	Reason for NFSA Position
INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE				
RB67	AMPC 1	SUPPORT AMPC 1	<p>This proposal allows for listed fire sprinkler piping in wet systems to penetrate fire-resistance-rated wall or floor assemblies in townhouses, provided that the annual space around the penetration is properly sealed. The change will have the additional effect of allowing common walls between townhouse units to contain water filled sprinkler piping.</p>	<p>Listed fire sprinkler piping is ignition resistant and will not sustain combustion. Allowing common fire sprinkler piping to protect multiple units in a townhouse can significantly reduce installation costs, and the IBC now allows penetration of townhouse separation walls in any townhouse that does not exceed the height and area limits. Additionally, water-filled sprinkler pipes will be allowed in common walls. This option provides for improved sprinkler designs for townhouses by allowing sidewall sprinklers to be deployed from common walls, which unlike exterior walls, are not exposed to freezing exterior conditions. By using sidewall sprinklers to protect the top floor instead of pendent sprinklers in the ceiling, sprinkler piping can be kept out of attics, which are subject to freezing.</p>

